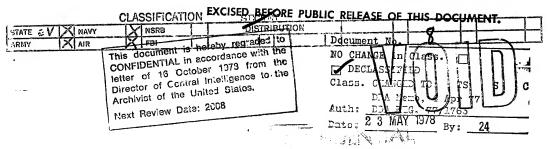


immeuvering for Influence within the OeVP

- 1. Although a current of dissatisfaction with Leopold Figl as Federal Chancellor continues within the OeVP, there is no prospect of his removal before the spring of 1950. A new party convention is scheduled to be held at that time, and it is believed possible that the offices of Bundesparteiobrana and Bundeslanzler, both now held by Figl, may be separated. Figl might retain one of these positions, or he may be appointed Landeshauptmann of Lover Austria. The feeling of the OeVP leadership is that Figl's removal immediately after the elections would have a bad psychological effect. The question of a new term for Figl after the elections was not even discussed at the meeting of the Landesleitung, Vien on 30 August 1949.*
- Within OeVF ranks, Karl Gruber and Dr. Heinrich Gleicsner, Landeshauptrann for Upper Austria, seen to be equally favored as the possible successor to Figl.

 Hurdes is not being considered at all as a candidate. Although he is a capable and respected man, his time is so taken up with the performance of official duties that he has no opportunity to build up political support; he spends little time in Vienna and does not have much contact with fellow party members. Of all the OeVF leaders, Graf is clearly making the most effort to succeed Figl. He is allogedly attempting to have Figl promoted to the sinecure of Fideral President and is maneuvering to improve his own position with the OeVF by any means.**
- Reports that Rudolf Kristofics-Binder, OeVP Kenber of Parliament, will be expelled from the OeVP are absolutely infounded. On the contrary, he is strongly supported by Raab, and the Bundesleitung is making a vigorous effort to have Kristofics-Binder compete for an easy victory on a carefully solected election ticket for Lover Austria, since he was not selected for re-election from any Vienna district. Kristofics-Binder's election is important to the CeVP, since he is the only National rat in the party with working class support. *** The Bundes-leitung is also attempting to ensure the election in Lover Austria of Karl Friedland Dr. Nadine Paunovic.

WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST



STORET

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

The Call and Josuer Nasis

4. The cylinion now of the OoVP Bundesleitung and of the group around Graf is that the woolng of the Masis by the party was a mistake. Fritz Zink recently stated that the Junge Front and its newspaper, which is costing 40,000 schillings per isome, are both failures and will be dissolved after the elections. Zink said that he was opposed to the present policy of the CoVP which permits the formation of separate organizations corresponding to various shades of epinion within the party. In connection with the Junge Front, it is reported that the group has been taging a losing battle in its distinct mootings against representatives of the VIV (League of Independents) who have been successfully recruiting potential Junge Front newbers for their own organization. A rumor is circulating in the OeVP that Dr. Herbert Kraus, leader of the MDU, has received 3,000,000 schillings from the United States as a contribution to his election campaign fund.

The Moneralist Group within the OeVP

- 5. A Momerchist element which has been active which the CoVP has recently been formed into a subordinate section called "Referat for Cesterralchische Geschichte und Volkstum," or, more popularly, "Traditionsreferat." The leader of the group is Friedrich Ritter von Wiesner, a former state attorney and Austrian Foreign Service officer. Between the last two wars, he was a liaison agent between Archivic Otto of Hapsburg and high-ranking Austrian government officials. It is considered likely that Wiesner is in contact with Kraus of the VDU. The idea for the formation of this section originated with Felix Hurdes and Dr. Alfred Rasamas; its most active organizer has been Fran Professor Hittel. The OeVP has encouraged the "Traditionsreferat" which is considered a safety valve for Musarchist tendencies within the party and also a counter-balance against the Masis.
- 6. The nucleus of the new Morerchist section in the CeVP has been formed by morging two already existing organizations. One, the Cesterroichische Gewelsschaft, has 500 yearlers. The leaders of this group are Kaerner in Graz, Wilhelm Schridt in Salaturg, and Dr. Hittel and Dr. Sauer in Vienna. Sauer is the president of the organization and a plantst of some reputation. The organization publishes a magazine called Die Nation. The second organization is called Heimstland and it mainly a hiking society. Its president is Erich Tammer of Linz, but the real leader is Maria Lang of Vienna, the acts as secretary. A Col. Becauser of Vienna is an active number.
- 7. Mostings of the section so far have indicated an interest in a sentimental reconstruction of Manurchist Ausuria, rather than any positive program for the fature, and the section carries no weight politically. At a meeting held recently, Graf's representative in the section, Fritz Polear, made an eloquent speech, which was well received, in favor of the old days in Vienna under the Hapsburgs. When a more constructive program was suggested by Dr. Alfred Massang of the Certerreichischer Verlag, however, it received no support from the members of the section.

25X1A

that at the neeting of OsVP Vienna headquarters on 30 August 1949, it was unanimously decided to oppose a new term for Figl after the elections.

25X1A #5

Comput: This account of candidates for Figl's position does not agree with a report from another source which gives the Party's first choice as Grabes, second choice, Hurdes, and third choice, Gleisener. Graf's name is emitted entirely from the list.

25X1A ◎*፡፡ ▮

Generals: The report of Kristofics-Binder's expulsion from the CeVP, although supported in the press, is in direct conflict with an account from another source which emphatically reports that Kristofics-Binder has been drapped from the CeVP. The same source goes on to say that an attempt to retain his seat in Pandiament by offering a 100,000 schilling bribe to the CeVP was unsuccessful. At all events, however, Kristofics-Binder's name does not appear on the newly published electoral lists for Lover Austria. The CeVP is reported to have dropped Kristofics-Hinder in order to avoid an aukward situation, since it had been learned that the Socialists intended to single out Kristofics-Binder for violent attack during the election campaign. He was allegedly responsible for arranging a meeting in 1946 between Raab and Figl on one side and Ernst Fischer of the others 2001/03/22 CLARDP82-00457R003400330010-1